Ministries/Departments; and the same will be laid on the Table of the House as and when received.

Extension of Metro Railway

2676. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to extend Metro Railway from Dum Dum to Barrackpore and from Tollyganj to Garia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the circular rail in Calcutta is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) A proposal was sent by the Government of West Bengal in June, 1995 for extending the Metro Railway in Calcutta from Tollyganj to Garia. The Government of West Bengal, was requested in July, 1995 to furnish its comments on certain issues like setting up of a Company to implement the project; Government of West Bengal's participation in the equity of the Company to the extent of 50%; exempting the properties of the Company from property tax and other applicable State taxes; provision of land for the project at their cost and the willingness of the State Government to bear 50% of operational losses, it any. However, comments from the State Government, in this regard, are awaited.

As regards extension of Metro Rail from Dum Dum to Barrackpore, no proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

(d) The feasibility study for Circular Railway in Calcutta was completed in November, 1996. However, no proposal has been received from the State Government for Central assistance in the implementation of the project.

Installation of Statue

2677. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install statue of Mahatma Gandhi at India Gate in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The Government is considering the suitability of different locations at the India Gate Complex as well as outside it for installation of a status of Mahatma Gandhi during the 50th year of India's Independence. For this purpose, views of agencies concerned are being ascertained. However, the matter is sub-judice in the Delhi High Court which had issued an interim injunction order in CWP No. 2725/95 restraining the Government of India from "Altering/removing/demolishing the Canopy/Chatri at the India Gate roundabout renamed as August Kranti Udyan". It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to state the time by which the statue would be installed.

[Translation]

Training Camps

2678. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that camps are being set-up by Pakistan on the Pak-Afghanistan border for providing training to the terrorists to carry out sabotage activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Government are aware that Pakistan is operating camps in its territory, Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan where terrorists are being given training for carrying out acts of terrorism and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Various measures have been taken to curb the possibilities of infiltration of such elements into Jammu and Kashmir. These, inter alia, include intensive patrolling on the Border/LOC, deployment of security forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOC/Border and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies, etc. The arrangements are being continuously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as found necessary. Sustained operations are also being continued by the Police and Security Forces within the State to curb the activities of terrorists and subversive elements. The activities of Pakistan have also been continuously exposed at the International level through diplomatic and other channels.